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ELECTRICAL MACHINE

Technical Area

The present invention refers to an electrical machine, in particular an electric motor, according to the definition of the species of Claim 1.

Background Information

The rotatably supported parts of an electrical machine, such as the rotor of an electric motor, are typically supported in ball bearings. When the direction of rotation of the rotor changes, bearings of this type can produce noises that are disruptive and negatively affect comfort. The disruptive noises are produced because the balls in the ball bearing start to travel when the direction of rotation of the rotor changes and strike the other race shoulder of the bearing shell of the ball bearing. The noise is amplified further by the fact that rotor oscillations occur when the direction of rotation of the rotor changes, the rotor oscillations then being transferred to the housing of the electrical machine.

Advantages of the Invention

The present invention enables substantially play-free support of rotatably supported machine elements, such as the rotor of an electric motor. Since there is practically no play in the axial direction, rotor oscillations—which could cause disruptive noises to be produced—do not occur even when the direction of rotation and the axial force change. Due to the substantially constant orientation of the rotor relative to the bearings, the balls in the bearing are successfully prevented from traveling and striking the race shoulder of the bearing shell, even when the direction of the axial force on the rotor suddenly changes. As a result, disruptive noises are prevented. Furthermore, the present invention enables good emergency running properties of the motor, since the bearing shells are

1 installed in the housing of the motor with a sliding fit. If a bearing jams, the
2 bearing is still able to slide in the housing. Due to the bearing construction
3 designed according to the present invention, a very even distribution of the load
4 among the two bearings is obtained. This results in very even wear and,
5 therefore, a very long service life. The components of the bearing are easy to
6 manufacture and install, which allows the manufacturing costs to be noticeably
7 reduced. Finally, the motor can also be removed easily, to perform wear-induced
8 repairs, for example, without causing any damage.

9
10 Drawing

11
12 The present invention is described in greater detail below with reference to the
13 drawing.

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15 Figure 1 shows an electrical machine, in particular an electric motor, in a
16 longitudinal sectional view,

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18 Figure 2 shows the schematic illustration of a rotor supported in bearings in
19 a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention,

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21 Figure 3 shows the schematic illustration of a rotor supported in bearings in
22 a second exemplary embodiment of the present invention,

23
24 Figure 4 shows a diagram of the spring force of a spring element of the A
25 bearing as a function of deflection,

26
27 Figure 5 shows a diagram of the spring force of a spring element of the B
28 bearing as a function of deflection,

29
30 Figure 6 shows a further exemplary embodiment of the present invention,

31

1 Figure 7 shows a simplified exemplary embodiment of the present invention,
2 and

3

4 Figure 8 shows a further simplified exemplary embodiment of the present
5 invention.

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7 Detailed Description of the Exemplary Embodiments

8

9 Figure 1 shows an electrical machine 1, in particular an electric motor, in a
10 longitudinal sectional view. A housing 2 that is closed by two covers 3, 4
11 encloses a stator 6 and a rotor 5. Rotor 5 is supported in two bearings, B bearing
12 7 and A bearing 8, both of which are ball bearings in particular. The endpiece of
13 the shaft of rotor 5 extending out of housing 2 is configured as a worm 5.1 that
14 meshes with a toothed wheel 5.2.

15

16 Further details of the bearing construction designed according to the present
17 invention are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3. Figure 2 shows the schematic
18 depiction of a rotor 5 supported in bearings 7, 8 in a first exemplary embodiment
19 of the present invention. B lager 7 located in cover 3 is composed of an inner
20 bearing shell 7.2 and an outer bearing shell 7.1. Inner bearing shell 7.2 is
21 mounted on the shaft of rotor 5. Outer bearing shell 7.1 is mounted in cover 3
22 with a sliding fit. A spring element 7.3 is positioned between outer bearing shell
23 7.1 and cover 3, and bears against cover 3 and outer bearing shell 7.1. Spring
24 element 7.3 exerts a force on outer bearing shell 7.1 that is directed inwardly in
25 the axial direction. In the diagram in Figure 5, the retractive force F of spring
26 element 7.3 in newtons is plotted as a function of deflection s in hundredths of
27 millimeters. The diagram shows that the strongest retractive force takes effect
28 when rotor 5 is deflected in the axial direction to the left. Deflection of rotor 5 in
29 the axial direction to the left is therefore counteracted, and rotor 5 is centered in
30 the axial direction to the right. "A" bearing 8 is located in cover 4 on the right side
31 of rotor 5. "A" bearing 8 includes a lower bearing shell 8.1 and an upper bearing

1 shell 8.2. In turn, lower bearing shell 8.1 is mounted on the shaft of rotor 5. Upper
2 bearing shell 8.2 of bearing 8 is supported in cover 4 with a sliding fit. A spring
3 element 8.3 is located between cover 4 and outer bearing shell 8.2, the spring
4 element bearing against cover 4 and outer bearing shell 8.2. Spring element 8.3
5 presses rotor 5 in the axial direction to the left. The diagram in Figure 4 shows
6 the retractive force F of spring element 8.3 in newtons as a function of deflection
7 s in hundredths of millimeters. As shown in the diagram in Figure 4, the retractive
8 force F increases the more rotor 5 moves to the right. The mode of operation of
9 the arrangement can be summarized with the following description. As soon as
10 rotor 5 is deflected to the left, retractive force F of spring element 7.3 increases
11 greatly and forces rotor 5 back to the right. Excessive deflection of rotor 5 to the
12 right, in turn, is offset by the retractive force F of spring element 8.3. The overall
13 result is that rotor 5 is forced to assume the most stable position of equilibrium
14 possible between the two bearings 7 and 8. When axial oscillations of rotor 5
15 occur, in particular when the direction of rotation changes, spring elements 7.3
16 and 8.3 further cause balls 7.4 and 8.4 in ball bearings 7, 8 to bear, in a defined
17 manner, against the shoulders of their races formed by the bearing shells. As a
18 result, balls 7.4, 8.4 are prevented from traveling when the direction of rotation of
19 rotor 5 changes, and the noises that would be otherwise produced are prevented.

20
21 Further advantageous emergency running properties result from the fact that
22 outer bearing shells 7.1, 8.2 are mounted with a sliding fit. If one of the ball
23 bearings 7, 8, or both bearings, become jammed, the sliding-fit arrangement
24 allows outer bearing shells 7.1, 8.2 to continue to rotate, along with rotor 5, in
25 their sliding-fit arrangement in covers 3, 4. The sliding fit arrangement further
26 enables the electrical machine to be removed directly, to repair worn
27 components, for example, without causing any damage.

28
29 A further exemplary embodiment of the present invention is shown in Figure 3.
30 The difference from the exemplary embodiment described previously with
31 reference to Figure 2 is that, in this case, inner bearing shells 7.2 and 8.2 are

1 loaded by spring elements 7.3, 8.3. Furthermore, the seats of inner bearing
2 shells 7.2 and 8.1 on the shaft of rotor 5 are configured as sliding fits that, in case
3 of emergency, if bearings 7, 8 become jammed, allow emergency running
4 operation. Spring elements 7.3, 8.3 bear against a step of rotor 5. A thorough
5 description is not necessary, since the design is easy to understand. The
6 advantages described with the first exemplary embodiment are also attainable
7 with this exemplary embodiment.

8
9 A further exemplary embodiment of the present invention is shown in Figure 6. It
10 shows that the design-related means of attaining the object of the invention for
11 the first exemplary embodiments described can also be advantageously
12 combined with each other. In this case, for example, with the B bearing, inner
13 bearing shell 7.2 is loaded by spring element 7.3, while, with the A bearing, outer
14 bearing shell 8.2 is loaded with spring element 8.3. The reverse combination is
15 also possible, of course.

16
17 Figure 7 shows a simplified exemplary embodiment of the present invention that
18 can be realized in an economical manner. With this exemplary embodiment, a
19 spring element 7.3 is provided on only one bearing side of rotor 5 and, in fact, on
20 B bearing 7, the spring element applying pressure on outer bearing shell 7.1.

21
22 With the further exemplary embodiment—which is also shown in a simplified
23 depiction—according to Figure 8, a spring element 8.3 is also provided on only
24 one bearing side of rotor 5 and, in fact, on A bearing 8 in this case, the spring
25 element applying pressure on inner bearing shell 8.2.

26
27 The means of attaining the object of the invention according to the present
28 invention was described above in conjunction with an electrical machine, in
29 particular an electric motor. It is also possible, however, to apply the means of
30 attaining the object of the invention according to the present invention in any

- 1 bearing design that requires suppression of axial play and, therefore, axial
- 2 oscillations associated therewith.

Reference Numerals	
1	Electrical machine
2	Housing
3	Cover
4	Cover
5	Rotor
5.1	Worm
5.2	Toothed wheel
6	Stator
7	B bearing
7.1	Outer bearing shell
7.2	Inner bearing shell
7.3	Spring element
7.4	Ball
8	A bearing
8.1	Inner bearing shell
8.2	Outer bearing shell
8.3	Spring element
8.4	Ball
F	Retractive force